

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 02340 141206Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----050387 141207Z /53

P 141141Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4858

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 2340

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SO, US, ET, MASS, PDEV, MOPS
SUBJECT: SOMALIA REQUESTS US ARMS

REF: PARA 7, STATE 161221

1. IN KHARTOUM'S 2339 WE EXPRESSED SOME SLIGHT
SKEPTICISM ABOUT CERTAIN "MOMENTUM-SUSTAINING ACTIONS"
DEPARTMENT HAS IN MIND VIS-A-VIS THE SUDAN. WE
THEREFORE DOUBT WHETHER SUDANESE WOULD BE MUCH IMPRESSED
BY THE GAMUT OF SOMEWHAT SIMILAR U.S. "MOMENTUM-
SUSTAINING REACTIONS" ENVISIONED FOR SOMALIA.

2. SUDANESE ARE FAIRLY REALISTIC, HOWEVER. WE DO
NOT THINK IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO PERSUADE THEM THAT
SIAD'S QUASI-ULTIMATUM SHOPPING LIST WAS A PLOY, AND
A RATHER BAD PLOY AT THAT. THAT HAVING BEEN
ACCOMPLISHED HOWEVER, SUDANESE WOULD DOUBTLESS URGE
U.S. TO BE UNDERSTANDING OF SIAD'S DIFFICULT POSITION
AND TO COME UP WITH AT LEAST A PARTIAL RESPONSE TO
HIS ARMS REQUEST. SUDANESE, OF COURSE, HAVE SOME
HOPE OF MOVING SOMALIA MORE FIRMLY TOWARDS THEIR
CAMP IN CURRENT DISPUTES WITH LIBYA, SOVIET UNION
AND ETHIOPIA.

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3. WE BELIEVE PRIMARY CONCERN OF SUDANESE, HOWEVER,
WILL BE BROADER IMPLICATIONS OF POSSIBLE US DECISION
TO ESCHEW MAJOR ROLE AS ARMS SUPPLIER TO SOMALIA.
IF SUDANESE FEEL THAT OUR HESITATION IN SOMALIA IS
A HARBINGER OF A SIMILAR RETICENCE TOWARDS THEIR OWN
MORE MODEST AND REALISTIC REQUESTS, THEY WILL BECOME
UNEASY INDEED. WE CAN EXPECT A BARRAGE OF EXPRESSIONS

OF DISMAY AND CONCERN OVER US LACK OF WILL FROM
SUDANESE AND THEIR PRESENT ARAB ALLIES. FOR THIS
REASON IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE MAKE CLEAR OUR INTEN-
TION TO PURSUE AN ARMS POLICY TOWARDS SUDAN BASED
ON REALISTIC AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION OF THEIR
REQUESTS ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS. WE SHOULD NOT
ALLOW SUDANESE TO GAIN IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE
IN EFFECT IMPOSING GENERAL ARMS EMBARGO ON ENTIRE
HORN REGION. DECISION IN PRINCIPLE WE HAVE TAKEN
(STATE 160093) WILL BE HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD.

4. DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO OTHER ADDRESSEES AS DESIRED.
BERGUS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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